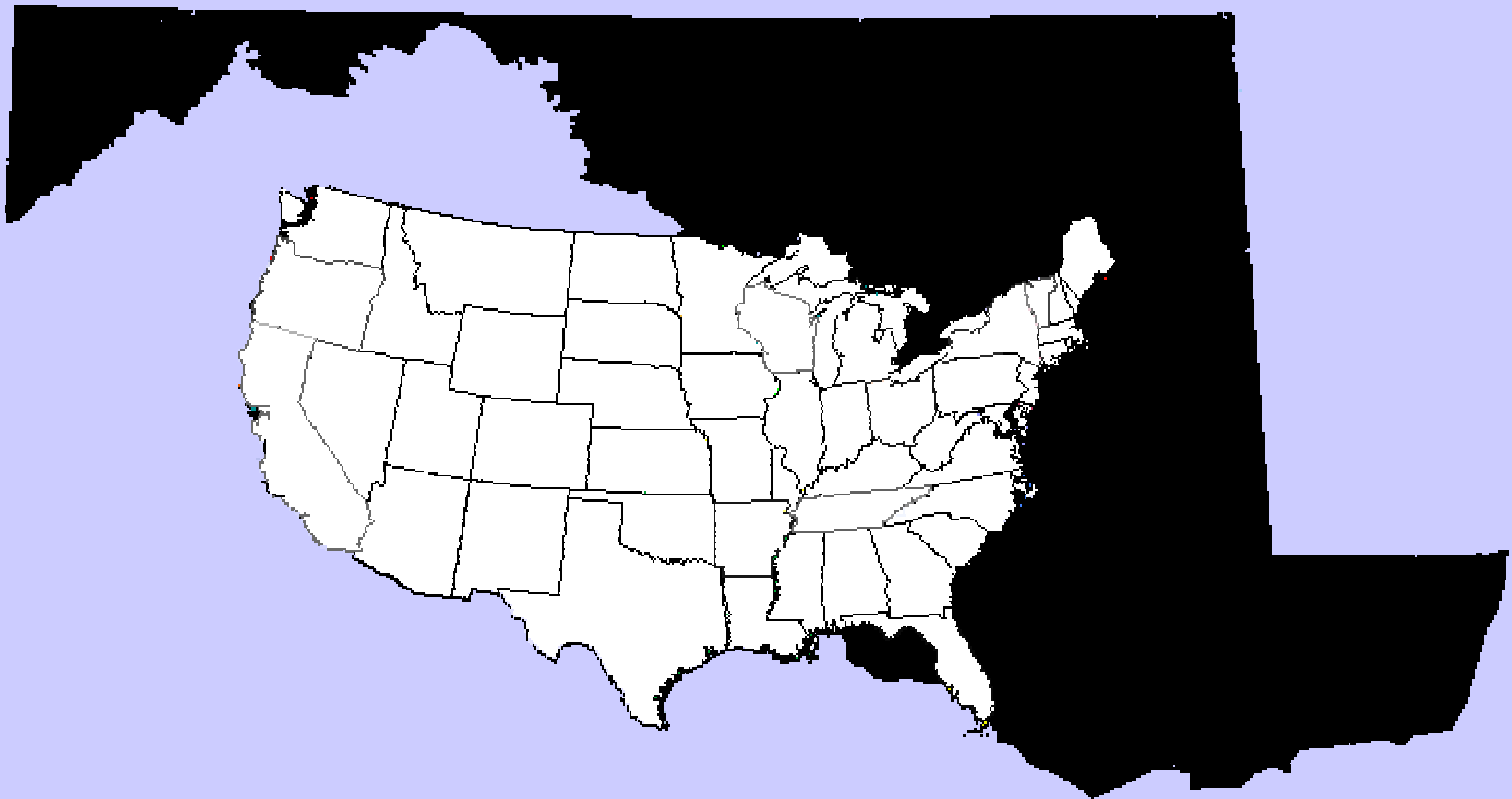


Developing a State Wetland Conservation Plan - Lessons Learned from Other States



Lessons Learned from Other States

- Statewide Wetland Strategies Guidebook
- Interviews with Other SWCP Coordinators
- Other States' Conservation Plans



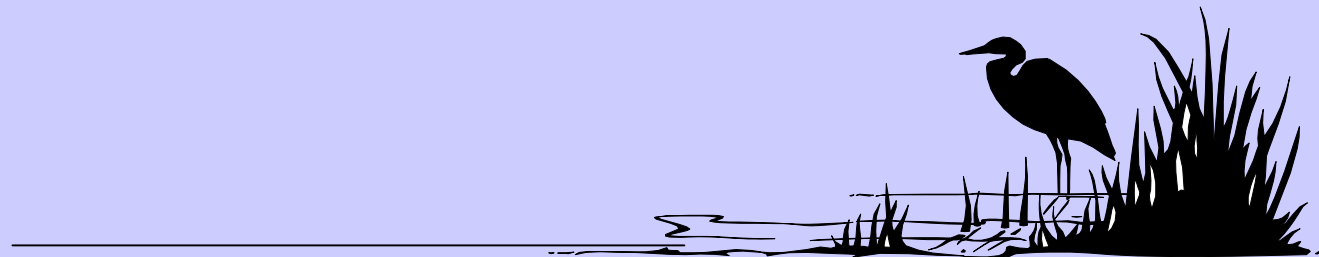
Statewide Wetland Strategies: A Guide to Protecting and Managing the Resource

- Cliff's Notes
 - Created by National Wetlands Policy Forum
 - Comprised of:
 - industry
 - government
 - farming
 - ranching
 - environmental concerns
 - Consensus reached on over 100 recommendations



State Wetland Strategies Guidebook

- Elements of a Statewide Strategy
- Issues in Wetlands Protection that can be addressed by an SWCP
- Creating a Wetlands Strategy



State Wetland Strategies Guidebook

Elements of a Statewide Strategy

- ☑ An overall goal
- ☑ Information about the State's wetlands and their potential threats
- ☑ An assessment of current protection efforts
- ☑ An action plan
- ☑ A monitoring and evaluation plan
- ☑ The ability to evolve over time

State Wetland Strategies Guidebook

Issues in Wetlands Protection, that can be addressed by an SWCP:

- Conflict between development and conservation, caused by uncertainty
- Considering land use and hydrology in protection
- Inadequate maps and other data
- Insufficient tracking of permits and wetland monitoring
- Protection of public lands

State Wetland Strategies Guidebook

Issues in Wetlands Protection, that can be addressed by an SWCP:

- Policies for public infrastructure and development
- Regulatory programs
- Permitting problems
- Limited budgets, staff, and expertise
- Identification of potential restoration sites
- Lack of acquisition/restoration priorities

State Wetland Strategies Guidebook

Creating a Wetlands Strategy - 6 Steps

Beforehand, develop an overall goal that:
promotes consistency, provides benchmarks,
establishes purpose, endures changes.

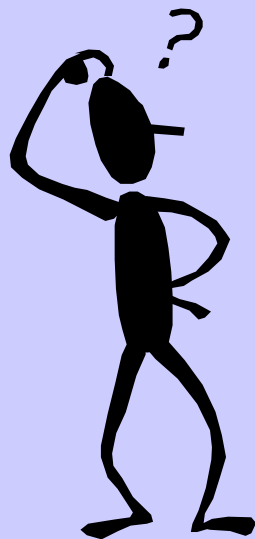
- Step 1) Identify the Current Scenario
How many wetlands are there, what kind, in what condition, serving what functions? What problems exist, and what are the consequences of current problems?
- Step 2) Establishing Strategy, Goals, Objectives
Applies to public and private interests of; legislative, regulatory, executive order, and policy goals.

State Wetland Strategies Guidebook

- Step 3) Identify and Assess existing Programs
Locate all programs, Identify areas of cooperation,
Identify successes, Identify areas of weakness
- Step 4) Make best Use of Current Protection
Mechanisms
Federal, State, Local, Nonprofit, Business
- Step 5) Seek Funding
- Step 6) Develop Strategies for Implementation,
Monitoring, and Evaluation

Interviews with Other SWCP Coordinators

Consistent Problems



Sound Advice

Innovations

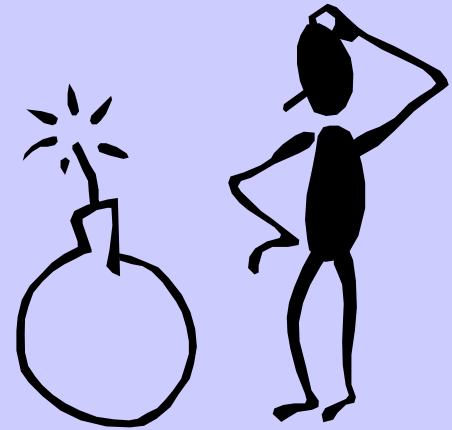
State Scenarios

Interviews with Other SWCP Coordinators

Consistent Problems

Lead Agency Problems

Mistrust, Workload, Implementation



Project Logistics Problems

Development length, Communication among represented groups

Interviews with Other SWCP Coordinators

Sound Advice

Resources

Strategy Guidebook, Mediator, Baseline
Information

Work Group Functioning

Ground Rules, Inclusion, Goals, Consensus, Vested
Interest



Interviews with Other SWCP Coordinators

Innovations

Products:

Internet mitigation database, In-lieu fee program, Mitigation banking study, Restoration blueprint



Methodologies

Wetlands management based on levels of development, State protection gaps addressed, State university provided research, Conflict resolution, Fostered local action

Interviews with Other SWCP Coordinators

State Scenarios

Arkansas



MAWPT already in place, tasked by governor to write plan, staff wrote the plan with MAWPT guidance, developed incentive-based plan, governor switch: hurt effectiveness of plan.

Minnesota



Not as agency driven - more public oriented, had trouble with commitment, divided wetlands both into ecological and management groups, took four years, needed a mechanism for local focus

Interviews with Other SWCP Coordinators

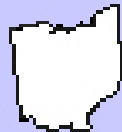
State Scenarios

North Carolina



Statewide plan still in development, basinwide plans now completed, basinwide plans part of water quality planning, specific, very incentive based, high use of in-lieu fees, standpoint as water-quality plans making acceptance tough.

Ohio



Not an all-inclusive work group - mostly “brain trust,” wanted to come up with target areas for restoration, developed restoration “blueprint,” not holistic, resource intensive.

Interviews with Other SWCP Coordinators

State Scenarios

Tennessee



Plan brought about by governor, could not create new office, have new \$ or staff, used Tenn Tech for functions research, developed “shopping list” for agencies when \$ is available, has updates built into the plan, needed more staff hours for plan work.

Texas



Agency facilitated, oriented toward private lands, had trust of government problems, had little private or agency carry-through

Interviews with Other SWCP Coordinators

State Scenarios

Vermont



Written by agency after public interviews, overseen by advisory committee, strategy not a plan, little conflict resolution, little implementation

Washington



Dealt with a lot of conflict, agency lead, didn't get \$ for implementation as hoped for, developed a dialogue between some parties, spent too much time on dead issues.